

1 1. A computer system comprising:

2 a memory;

3 a register file coupled to the memory through a memory channel, the register file

4 to store data for one or more procedures in one or more frames, respectively; and

5 a register stack engine to monitor activity on the memory channel and to transfer

6 data between selected frames of the register file and the memory responsive to available

7 bandwidth on the memory channel.

1 2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the memory includes a backing store and the

2 register stack engine transfers data between the selected frames and the backing store.

1 3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein a portion of the register file is organized as a

2 register stack.

1 4. The computer system of claim 3, wherein the register stack engine includes a first pointer

2 to indicate a first location in a current frame of the register stack.

1 5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the register stack engine includes a second

2 pointer to indicate an oldest dirty register in the register stack.

1 6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein the register stack engine includes a third
2 pointer to indicate an oldest clean register in the register stack.

1 7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein registers of the register file are mapped to a
2 current frame and an inactive frame, and the register stack engine transfers data between registers
3 in the inactive frame and the backing store.

1 8. The computer system of claim 7, wherein the registers mapped to the inactive frame are
2 designated as clean or dirty, according to whether data stored in the registers has or has not been
3 spilled to the memory.

1 9. The computer system of claim 8, wherein the memory includes a backing store.

1 10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the register stack engine transfers data from a
2 dirty registers to a corresponding location in the backing store when bandwidth is available on
3 the memory channel.

1 11. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the register stack engine transfers data to a
2 clean register from a corresponding location in the backing store when bandwidth is available on
3 the memory channel.

1 12. A method for managing data in a register stack comprising:

2 designating registers in the register stack as clean or dirty, according to whether

3 data in the registers has been spilled to a backing store;

4 monitoring operations on a memory channel; and

5 spilling data from a current oldest dirty register to the backing store when capacity

6 is available on the memory channel.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising updating a first pointer to indicate a new

2 oldest dirty register when data is spilled from the current oldest dirty register.

1 14. The method of claim 12, further comprising filling data from the backing store to a

2 current oldest clean register when capacity is available on the memory channel.

1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising updating a second pointer to indicate a new

2 oldest clean register when data is filled to the current oldest clean register.

1 16. A computer system comprising:

2 a memory system;

3 a register file to store data for an active procedure and one or more inactive
4 procedures; and

5 a register stack engine to transfer data between registers associated with the one or
6 more inactive procedures and the memory system, responsive to available bandwidth to
7 the memory system.

1 17. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the computer system further comprises a
2 load/store unit and the register stack engine monitors the load/store unit to determine available
3 bandwidth to the memory system.

1 18. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the register stack engine includes a first
2 pointer to track a next inactive register to spill to the memory system and a second pointer to
3 track a next inactive register to fill from the memory system responsive to available bandwidth.

1 19. The computer system of claim 16, wherein the register stack engine transfers data for
2 inactive procedures responsive to a mode status indicator.

1 20. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the register stack engine operates in a lazy
2 mode, a store intensive mode, a load intensive mode, or an eager mode according to the mode
3 status indicator.

- 1 21. The computer system of claim 19, wherein the mode status indicator is set under software
- 2 control responsive to a type of application to run on the computer system.